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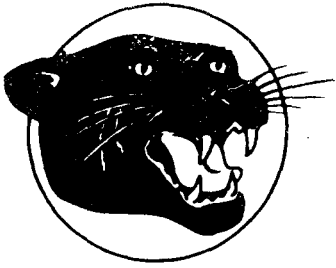
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Panther Sports News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL (April 16, 1985)--With an attitude of excellence and the performance to back it up, Lebanon, IL native Diana Durkee proves to be an asset to the Eastern Illinois University women's tennis team.

"I'm always striving for the best," said Durkee. "That's important to me."

As a No. 1 doubles and No. 2 singles player for the Lady Panthers, Durkee, a junior college transfer from Belleville Area College, puts in two hours a day perfecting her tennis ability.

Although a little nervous in the last few matches at Eastern, she believes time will help her calm her down.

"I just started playing at Eastern this year. Time should help me feel less nervous," says Durkee. "Right now the other players and I are managing to get through the losses."

At BAC where her tennis team swept the regionals in 1983, Durkee played doubles with Belleville, IL product Lauri Lehman. Durkee and Lehman both transferred to Eastern and now form the No. 1 doubles squad.

"Lauri and Diana have been good additions to the team," said coach Gail Richard. "They filled an important void for us at number one and number two."

After becoming interested in tennis in junior high, Durkee went on to high school where she was named a St. Louis Post Dispatch Scholar Athlete--the first female at Lebanon High School to receive this award.

Lebanon tennis coach Steve Crews was an inspiration to Durkee's tennis career.

"I admire Steve Crews. He helped me quite a bit with my game and taught me a lot."

Off the court, Durkee continues to strive for the best academically in her double major of accounting and finance.

"Being in two majors along with playing tennis is tough. It's important to stay ahead."

Although Durkee sees herself playing tennis only "leisurely" in the future, she plans to continue striving for the best in an accounting or finance career.